

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 7, 2006

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 26, 2006

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 27, 2006

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005–06 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2433

**Introduced by Assembly Member Negrete McLeod
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Chavez, DeVore, and Lieber)**

February 23, 2006

An act relating to military and veterans, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2433, as amended, Negrete McLeod. National Guard Family Resource Center Act.

Existing law establishes the Military Department comprised of the Office of the Adjutant General, the California National Guard, the State Military Reserve, the California Cadet Corps, and the Naval Militia. The department has specified powers and duties relating to military and veterans.

This bill would appropriate from the General Fund to the department the sum of \$99,000 for the 2006–07 fiscal year to provide upgraded armory facilities and access at specified battalion headquarters armory locations to support the creation of Family Resource Centers, as provided.

This bill would require the department to make a report to the Legislature regarding the program and makes specified legislative findings and declarations in connection thereto.

Vote: $\frac{2}{3}$. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the
2 National Guard Family Resource Center Act.
3 SEC. 2. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
4 following:
5 (a) The California National Guard serves essential public
6 safety purposes and routinely supports state and local authorities
7 in protecting the lives and property of the people of the state
8 during periods of natural diaster and civil disturbance, and
9 provides homeland security to the people of this state, as well as
10 serving the nation as a reserve component of the Army and the
11 Air Force.
12 (b) The California National Guard is a federally recognized
13 military organization that is routinely asked by the President to
14 perform dangerous duties in armed conflicts, contingency
15 operations, mobilizations, war, and other emergencies of national
16 significance.
17 (c) The California National Guard has a proud tradition of
18 federal military service where thousands of Californians have
19 answered the call to duty and served proudly, and thousands
20 more continue to serve their nation at home and abroad.
21 (d) The families of the members of the California National
22 Guard endure extraordinary hardships when the members are
23 called to duty by the President.
24 (e) The spouses and family members of deployed members of
25 the California National Guard also serve their state and their
26 nation, often without adequate recognition of their own sacrifices
27 and contributions to the public good.
28 (f) The spouses and family members of the California National
29 Guard could further contribute to the public good and
30 accomplishing the mission of deployed members of the
31 California National Guard by improved communications with
32 their deployed spouses and family members.
33 SEC. 3. (a) There is hereby appropriated from the General
34 Fund to the Military Department, the sum of ninety-nine
35 thousand dollars (\$99,000) for the 2006–07 fiscal year to support

1 the creation of National Guard Family Resource Centers. These
2 funds shall be provided to the Military Department to provide
3 upgraded armory facilities and access at the battalion
4 headquarters armory locations in Azusa, Burbank, Fresno,
5 Inglewood, Modesto, San Bernardino, ~~San Diego, Santa Ana,~~ and
6 Walnut Creek.

7 (b) The Legislature understands that the cost of each center
8 shall be approximately thirty-one thousand two hundred
9 seventy-nine dollars (\$31,279) for a total of two hundred
10 ~~eighty-one thousand five hundred eleven dollars (\$281,511)~~
11 *eighteen thousand nine hundred fifty-three dollars (\$218,953)*. It
12 is the intent of the Legislature that these funds shall be used in
13 conjunction with privately raised funds donated through qualified
14 501(c)(19) Veterans Organizations or 501(c)(3) Charitable
15 Organizations to enable the completion of Family Resources
16 Centers at the ~~nine~~ *seven* battalion headquarters listed in
17 subdivision (a). It is the intent of the Legislature that the Military
18 Department, in concert with private organizations such as the
19 National Guard Association of California, shall be actively
20 involved in raising the additional funds from private donations.

21 (c) The funds provided to the Military Department under this
22 act shall be used only for the construction costs of the reception
23 and information area, Internet cafe, administrative support area,
24 conference area, children's play area, families helping families
25 closet, and general construction costs.

26 (d) The funds appropriated under this act shall be made
27 available in equal parts to each of the ~~nine~~ *seven* armories listed
28 in subdivision (a), and shall be made available for each armory
29 only after sufficient funds or in-kind resources have been
30 obtained from other sources to complete the construction of a
31 Family Resource Center at that armory, as described in
32 subdivision (c).

33 (e) The Military Department is encouraged to leverage
34 existing resources, such as the Distance Learning Centers,
35 National Guard Enhanced Classrooms, GUARDNET, NIPR, and
36 other appropriate means to communicate with deployed National
37 Guard members, as long as that use does not conflict with federal
38 law or military regulations. In order to maximize scarce
39 California resources, the Family Resource Centers should utilize

1 federal networks to the maximum extent allowed by federal law
2 and federal military regulations.

3 (f) No funds appropriated by this act shall be used for pay,
4 allowances, or other related payroll costs for the Military
5 Department, troop command, division, or brigade headquarters,
6 or armory personnel.

7 (g) The Family Resource Centers shall be staffed by
8 volunteers and existing Military Department or California
9 National Guard personnel, to include armory repair and
10 maintenance personnel and full-time unit staffing.
11 Notwithstanding federal law and federal military regulations, the
12 Adjutant General shall be the approving authority to allow
13 volunteers access to armories for the purpose of operating Family
14 Resource Centers.

15 (h) It is the intent of the Legislature to allow state employees
16 to support the construction and operation of these Family
17 Resource Centers consistent with their existing job requirements.
18 Furthermore, the Legislature recognizes the importance of these
19 centers in promoting the accomplishment of the Military
20 Department mission and improving recruiting and retention in
21 the California National Guard. Therefore, the Legislature
22 recognizes that the Adjutant General is authorized under existing
23 provisions to use funds otherwise made available to the
24 department to support the creation and operation of Family
25 Resource Centers in accordance with his or her strategic plan for
26 the department.

27 (i) When the availability of Family Resource Centers is
28 limited, priority of use shall go to family members of deployed
29 soldiers and airmen of the California National Guard. However,
30 on a space-available basis, these centers shall also be made
31 available for use by family members of deployed federal
32 reservists and active component military personnel.

33 (j) Within 365 days of the appropriation by this act, the
34 Military Department shall provide a report to the Legislature
35 indicating the status of the ~~nine~~ *seven* Family Resource Centers
36 and the number of military families it has served. Included in the
37 report shall be the amount of funds raised from private donors. It
38 is the intent of the Legislature to encourage private donations to

- 1 the Military Department to make the creation and operation of
- 2 future Family Resource Centers a public-private endeavor.

O